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Bangalore Mirror

TEMP Max 26 | Min 22 | Humidity 80% Light rain Sensex 82,605 | Nifty 25,323 | Gold 1,27,645 | Silver 1,62,228 | Dollar 87.97 | Euro 102.24 | GBP 117.54

Bengalureans opting for more meaningful festive cleaning as they try to make sure that when they declutter their homes, items that are still usable reach people that actually need them

DOESN'T IT SPARK JOY?

Authorities can list out verified recyclers, repair units, NGOs on official websites

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As Deepavali approaches, homes across Bengaluru are abuzz with more than the usual festive cleaning. This year, many residents are going beyond dusting and decor. They're decluttering their homes, donating what they no longer need, and making conscious choices to celebrate the festival of lights with a lighter footprint.

Traditionally seen as a time to cleanse spaces and welcome prosperity, Deepavali cleaning has evolved into a movement for mindful living. From gated communities to independent homes, Bengalureans are sorting through wardrobes, cupboards, and storage boxes to give unused items a second life.

"We've been meaning to declutter for months, but Deepavali gave us the perfect push," said Sneha Krishnan, a resident of Vijayanagar. "Our community has set up a donation drive where people can drop off clothes, toys, utensils, and even small electronics. It's amazing to see how much can be reused instead of ending up in the landfill," she added.

Speaking on the impact such behaviours can have, Savita Hiremath, author of 'Endlessly Green: Solid Waste Management for Everyone' and a member of the

CONTINUED ON PAGE 8 »

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PRE-LOVED UP

"Apartment associations, classified as bulk generators, can play a huge role. Their actions can even have a rippling effect
— Savita Hiremath, author & member of SWMRT

EXTORTION TACTICS

Shopkeepers go to cops for action against groups demanding over-the-top amounts as Deepavali 'treat'

PAGE 5

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THINGS TO DO

01 Timeless wisdom

Azim Premji University, in collaboration with Samskruti Sambhrama, is organising a discussion titled 'Ananda Coomaraswamy and the Light of Indianness'. The event aims to explore Coomaraswamy's ideas on Indian aesthetics, philosophy, and cultural identity. **Where: Indian Institute of World Culture, Basavanagudi; When: October 18, 6 pm to 7:30 pm**

02 Creative brew

Cha Party Vol. 1 promises an immersive blend of matcha, design, music, and community — featuring creative workshops, games, and a live set by Sakré. **Where: Freedom Tree, Indiranagar; When: October 19, 11 am to 8 pm**

03 Music & moods

The Drawing Room by Smoke House Deli brings back Wild West Fridays, featuring live performances by Ishani Dhiman. Enjoy soulful indie and acoustic music across pop, retro, Bollywood, and Punjabi folk, paired with cocktails, comfort food, and an intimate, relaxed vibe perfect for unwinding. **Where: The Drawing Room by Smoke House Deli, Indiranagar; When: October 17, 8 pm onwards**

04 Threads of tradition

Celebrate India's handloom and craft heritage at The Grand Rajasthani Exhibition. Explore Bandhani fabrics, handlooms, jewellery, paintings, carpets, and more by master artisans. **Where: Sri Someshwara Sabha Bhavana, JP Nagar; When: until Oct 22, 10:30 am to 8 pm**

05 Festival of fun

A day-long celebration of curiosity and creativity for children, featuring storytelling, music, pottery, animal interactions, and hands-on workshops. **Where: Eklavya Early Years, Yelahanka; When: November 8, 10 am to 4 pm**

Supermarket for govt staff?

Karnataka Large and Medium Industries Minister MB Patil on Wednesday said the government is considering setting up supermarkets for state employees through Mysore Sales International Limited (MSIL), modelled on police and army canteens.

The initiative aims to provide essential daily-use items to government staff at discounted rates, he said. Patil held preliminary discussions with Industries Department Principal Secretary S. Selvakumar, MSIL Managing Director Manoja Kumara, and other senior officials, his office stated.

With around six lakh government employees in Karnataka, the plan seeks to benefit their families as well. Discussions will also be held with the Finance Department to explore subsidies or tax exemptions for the initiative.

MSIL has been asked to submit a detailed feasibility report within a month. Initially, four to five outlets are proposed in Bengaluru, with plans to later expand to district headquarters across the state. The final decision will be taken after reviewing the feasibility report. **— BMB**

Pre-loved clothes steal the spotlight today

Former waste workers give discarded clothes a second life, turning textile waste into stylish fashion while generating meaningful livelihoods

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As part of Hasiru Dala's textile waste management project, a new thrifting initiative has been launched to give discarded clothes a second life while creating dignified livelihood opportunities for waste workers.

The project follows a hub-and-spoke model, with 16 Dry Waste Collection Centres (DWCCs) across Bengaluru. The collected textile waste is sent to a Textile Recovery Facility (TRF) in Hirandahalli, run by Indumathi, a former waste picker who has now become an entrepreneur and manages both the TRF and Navajeevana (thrift store).

According to a member of Hasiru Dala, earlier some of these clothing materials were sold to wholesalers in markets such as Chickpet. But now Hasiru Dala has adopted a more sustainable approach by opening a thrift store at the TRF and setting up pop-up stalls in public spaces such as Lalbagh, Budigere Cross Sunday Market, BMS College of Engineering, and other community events.

Mouna Balakrishna, Project Coordinator, Textile Waste Management, Hasiru Dala, said: "The aim is to promote reuse and mindful consumption, giving pre-loved clothes another chance to be worn rather than ending up in landfills. With the growing fast-fashion culture in Bengaluru, many people give away clothes that are still in very good condition. We saw value in recovering them and putting them back into circulation through thrift stores."

Pre-loved clothes ready for shoppers at the thrift store

Discarded clothes are given a second life through sorting, recycling, and upcycling, creating sustainable fashion and providing livelihood opportunities for waste workers

The TWM project also includes a strong focus on sorting and training. Workers are trained to segregate clothes by colour, quality, and material type. Cotton-dominant fabrics are sent for yarn recycling, while polyester-dominant fabrics go for chemical recycling. Torn or worn-out pieces are downcycled, while good-quality and premium items are set aside for thrifting or upcycling. Hasiru Dala has also onboarded 13 women upcyclers who use printed and colourful fabrics to make tote bags, pouches, and accessories, providing another layer of reuse and livelihood generation.

So far, the Textile Recovery Facility has processed over 750 metric tonnes of textile waste, with an inflow of around 50 tonnes per month. Of this, roughly 7–16% is re-wearable.

Mouna explained that the clothes offered at thrift stores are all washed and hygienic: "We want residents to donate washed and packed clothing, so it can be reused responsibly instead of wasted. While some people love the idea of thrifting, others hesitate due to hygiene concerns. That's why we ensure every piece of clothing is properly laundered before it reaches our thrift stores," said Mouna.

The team has also begun collaborating with apartment communities across the city, encouraging residents to donate clothes during wardrobe decluttering drives. Each collection drive doubles as an awareness campaign on the importance of recycling and reusing textiles.

Indumathi shared her inspiring journey and the growing response to the thrifting initiative: "I worked as a waste picker for 21 years before opening a scrap shop. After receiving training from Hasiru Dala, I became an operator at a DWCC and saw firsthand how much cloth was being dumped into landfills. That's when I decided I wanted to make a difference. Hasiru Dala trained me in textile recovery, and then I got to run the Textile Recovery Facility (TRF) and even started the thrift store. Some of our workers at the TRF began displaying clothes by the roadside near the village, and people immediately showed interest. They began asking where the store was, and soon more customers started visiting. Prices range from ₹49 to ₹500, and it's really picking up. We've been setting up thrift stalls in public places and colleges. Even people from the informal sector buy clothes. The response has been very good."

She added that she has trained several waste pickers in Bellandur and Doddakannalli to set up their own thrift stalls, helping them earn a better livelihood.

India's gold, silver prices skyrocket

Gold and silver prices hit record highs on Tuesday, driven by festive demand, a weaker rupee, and strong investment interest. According to the All India Sarafa Association, 99.9% pure gold rose by ₹2,850 to reach ₹1,30,800 per 10 grams, up from ₹1,27,950 on Monday. Similarly, 99.5% pure gold climbed to ₹1,30,200 per 10 grams, marking a 65.6% surge since December 2024.

Silver also continued its upward streak for the fifth consecutive day, rising ₹6,000 to reach ₹1,85,000 per kg, its highest-ever level. Traders attributed the sharp rally to the rupee's fall against the US dollar, which slipped by 12 paise to ₹88.80, alongside heavy festive and wedding-season purchases.

Globally, spot gold prices hit a record $4,179 per ounce, while silver prices in India traded 10–15% higher than global rates, making it one of the most expensive markets for the white metal. Silver could climb further to ₹1,94,639 per kg in domestic markets and $59.89 per ounce internationally if the current trend continues. **— PTI**

308 teachers in 20 schools with 0 students

Even as 20 schools in Karnataka reported zero student admissions, as many as 308 teachers continue to attend duty daily, according to the Unified District Information System for Education (UDISE) report released by the Union Government. The data also revealed that over 8% of schools in the state have fewer than 10 students, while nearly 12% have between 11 and 20 students.

Compared with the previous year, the number of teachers deployed in schools with no students has dropped sharply from 1,572 to 308, and the number of such schools has decreased from 1,078 to 270. Experts point out that geographical challenges in certain regions make it necessary for the government to retain teachers despite zero enrolments, as sanctioned posts cannot simply be withdrawn. Educationist VP Niranjanaradhya noted that teachers continue their duties in the hope of future admissions, but this highlights the urgent need for rationalisation in the state's school system. **— BMB**

Dermatologist murder: Husband allegedly used anaesthetic drug to kill her

CRIME FILES

Six months after the death of 29-year-old dermatologist Dr Kruthika Reddy, Marathahalli police have arrested her husband, a surgeon, on charges of murder. Investigations revealed that the accused allegedly injected her with a controlled anaesthetic, restricted to operation-theatre use, targeting multiple organs to make her death appear natural.

Police action followed a complaint filed by the victim's father, K Munireddy, who alleged that Dr. Kruthika, working at Victoria Hospital along with her husband, had fallen ill on April 21.

She was reportedly taken to a nearby hospital by her husband, where she was declared dead on arrival.

A case of unnatural death was registered, and the Scene of Crime Officers (SOCO) recovered medical evidence, including a cannula set, injection tube, and other items, which were sent to the Forensic Science Laboratory (FSL). Viscera samples tested positive for Propofol, a potent anaesthetic drug, confirming foul play.

Victim's father alleged the man, also a doctor, who had grown resentful after they refused his demand for funds to build hospital, had administered several doses of lethal drug for a gastric issue

According to the father, the couple had married on May 26 of the previous year. He alleged that the accused neglected his wife, administered drugs under the guise of treatment, and grew resentful after the in-laws refused his demand for funds to build a private hospital. The couple later set up a clinic at Munekolala.

On April 24, the accused allegedly administered multiple doses of medicine via IV cannula for a supposed gastric problem, despite the victim's repeated pleas to remove it. She fell unconscious the next day and was rushed to a private hospital, where she was declared brought dead.

The accused reportedly refused to allow a post-mortem and did not attempt CPR at home.

Further inquiries by the family revealed the accused had a criminal history and was allegedly having an extramarital affair, harassing his wife.

The surgeon has been booked for murder and taken into custody. Police are investigating to determine the exact motive behind the alleged crime. **BMB**

3 held for robbing foreign student

The Sheshadripuram police have arrested three men for allegedly robbing a foreign student of his two-wheeler and mobile phone earlier this month. The accused have been identified as Philips George (29), Vikram (25), and Ajith (28). According to the police, the incident took place around 12.40 am on October 8, when the student was returning to his residence from Koramangala. According to police, the student had flashed his headlight at three unknown men who were riding a bike in a one-way lane. The trio then began following him.

Frightened, the student rode toward Rajiv Gandhi Circle, Sheshadripuram. Around 1 am, he lost control of his vehicle and fell. Taking advantage of the situation, the three men approached him, dragged him aside, snatched his mobile phone and bike key, and demanded to know what else he had. Before fleeing, they transferred ₹11,000 from the student's phone to their account and made away with his two-wheeler.

The student managed to get help from passersby, who alerted the police. Officers reached the spot, took him to a hospital for treatment, and later registered a robbery case at the Sheshadripuram Police Station.

Following a detailed investigation, police arrested all the three accused. Two bikes (including the stolen one), four mobile phones, and ₹11,000 in cash were recovered from them. Police said the accused have been booked and further investigation is underway. **BMB**

3 men robbed of mobiles, watch, cash

The Kengeri police have registered a case after three unidentified men allegedly stopped and robbed three youths in Srinivasapura on the night of October 12.

According to the complaint filed on October 14, the victims identified as Sharath KB, his brother Sharan K, and their friend Dithin KV were walking back to their rented terrace room on 80 Feet Road, near Ganakal Cross, after having dinner around 8.30 p.m. Three men on a two-wheeler reportedly blocked their path and threatened them.

The accused allegedly snatched a mobile from Sharath, a mobile from his brother, and a watch. They also forced the victims to transfer money via UPI, ₹750 from Sharath and ₹3,500 from Dithin's phone, using a mobile scanner that they were carrying.

The total estimated value of the stolen items is ₹17,250. The victims have urged police to trace the three unknown men and take action. The case has been registered under Kengeri Police Station. **BMB**

BM Retail & Shopping

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'No roads, no tax,' city's residents warn

Frustrated by "unscientific and incomplete civic works," residents and taxpayers from Varthur, Balagere, and Panathur have written to CM Siddaramaiah, demanding the government provide adequate public infrastructure before collecting property tax.

The Individual Taxpayers Forum (ITPF), representing these tech-corridor residents, sent a detailed letter earlier this week. The letter has sparked debate over city's crumbling infrastructure amid repeated complaints from citizens, and opposition criticism of the government for "failing Brand Bengaluru."

'No infrastructure, no tax'

In their October 13 letter, the forum urged the Chief Minister to direct the Greater Bengaluru Authority (GBA) not to collect property tax until basic infrastructure is provided. "Give us good public infrastructure and then collect taxes," the forum stated, noting residents have been "suffering immensely" due to poor civic planning and incomplete drainage and road works.

Flooding despite CM's visit

The area witnessed severe flooding on October 10–11, despite CM Siddaramaiah's visit on September 27 instructing officials to expedite flood mitigation.

Residents said flooding was caused by incomplete stormwater drainage networks leading to Varthur Lake. White-topping works carried out before completing drainage were criticised. The ITPF urged the CM to audit works, ensure networks are completed before new projects, and restore city's civic pride. **–BMB**

One city, one Khata: B'luru's big property revamp

Properties up to 2,000 sq mt eligible for conversion; owners to register online, pay 5 per cent of guidance value as fee

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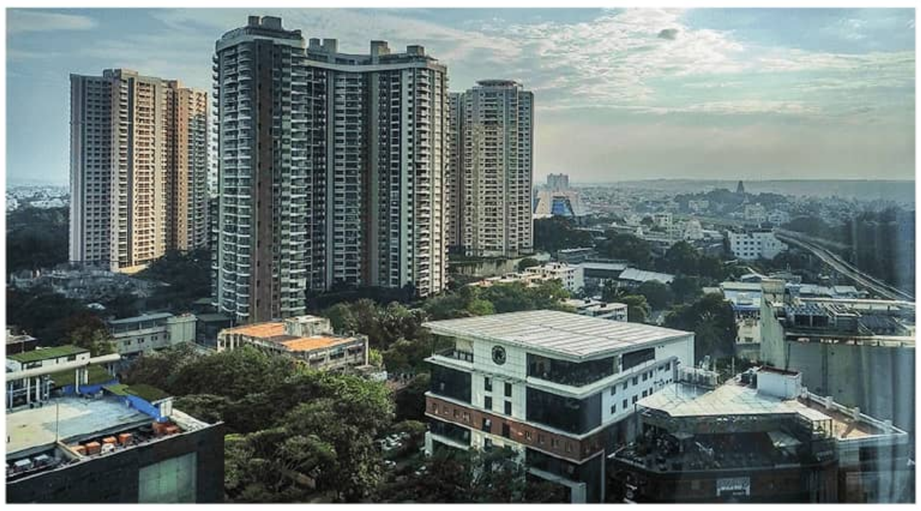
The State Government will begin converting B Khata properties to A Khata from November 1, Deputy Chief Minister DK Shivakumar announced. The initiative will cover about 15 lakh properties in Bengaluru and aims to bring all property records under a single, uniform system.

"Properties up to 2,000 square metres will be included in the program. Properties above 2,000 square metres will require CAD drawings and additional documents," Shivakumar said. The campaign will run for 100 days, and applicants must register online with a fee of ₹500. After registration, municipal officers will visit the properties for verification. Owners must pay 5 percent of the guidance value as the conversion fee. A revised fee will apply after the 100-day campaign ends.

For the convenience of applicants, each municipal body will set up two help desks, and Bengaluru One canters will also accept applications. Shivakumar emphasised that no bribes should be paid during the process.

Uniform Khata system

Shivakumar said a uniform Khata system would be implemented in Bengaluru. Earlier, the E-Khata system was introduced to digitise property records. The new decision is part of the Government's sixth guarantee to safeguard property ownership and ensure transparency. Bengaluru has around 25 lakh properties, of which 7.5 lakh have A Khata, 7.5 lakh have B Khata, and about 7 to 8 lakh have no Khata at all.



Government launches A Khata conversion campaign from November 1

> **Earlier, some landowners registered the same plot multiple times. This was stopped through a legal amendment. Any road next to a property will be treated as a public road**
>
> –Deputy CM DKS

Scope of conversion

The conversion will apply only to land and not to buildings. Multi-storey buildings with B Khata will not be converted under this program. Khata certificates will first be issued for land parcels, while buildings will be verified for compliance with legal and construction norms before determining additional fees.

The Government's objective is to prevent illegal transactions and the creation of fake Khatas. Shivakumar added, "After application, municipal officials will visit properties, take videos and photographs in the presence of owners, and upload the records. There will be a process for objections. Government lands, PTCL cases, and 94C cases will not be included."

Revenue layout roads

The Government has also declared roads in revenue layouts as public roads.

Shivakumar said that manpower and infrastructure have been arranged, District Registrars have powers to cancel bogus registrations, and ten centres are being set up to handle technical issues. Revenue from fees will remain with municipal bodies. Legal experts are also drafting rules for Occupancy Certificates (OC) and Completion Certificates (CC) in line with Supreme Court directions.

Timely alert stops contaminated water from spreading

Valve man's lapse during pipe replacement nearly sent contaminated water to hundreds of homes; timely intervention prevented major crisis

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A group of volunteers and workers averted a major crisis for hundreds of families on RK Mutt Road and surrounding areas, who were on the verge of receiving contaminated water. The goof-up has once again highlighted the lack of coordination between workers engaged in the Unaccounted-for Water (UFW) project and employees of the Bengaluru Water Supply and Sewerage Board (BWSSB).

According to sources, the BWSSB valve man reportedly released Cauvery water without verifying whether the ongoing work to replace old water pipes had been completed.

"We alerted the BWSSB staff to stop Cauvery water as the work of joining water pipes is yet to be completed. Water from the main pipe began flowing, and the pipes that are yet to be connected to the main line remained open. If water supply was not stopped, contaminated water would have reached sumps," said BR Chandran, a social activist.

Expressing concern over the delay in completing the water pipe-laying work, Naveen R., a resident, said the timely intervention of volunteers and workers prevented a major problem. "If water supply was not stopped, around 300 consumers on RK Mutt Road and nearby areas would have spent money to clean their sumps. We have been facing several problems due to lack of water. The BWSSB authorities assured us that water supply would be restored by morning or noon, but the work is still incomplete till evening," he said.

Another resident, on the condition of anonymity, said the authorities seemed indifferent to the problems faced by residents. "We appeal to the authorities to restore water supply without further delay and complete the ongoing works as early as possible. Most of the roads in Halasuru are dug up for laying new water and UGD pipes. We are not against development, but such works should be completed within a fixed timeframe," the resident said.

Meanwhile, a BWSSB Assistant Executive Engineer said water supply would be restored soon. "It seems the valve man had no knowledge of the ongoing work. I will visit the spot and take suitable measures to restore supply," the official said.

A group of people who alerted BWSSB staff about water contamination

> **If water supply was not stopped, around 300 consumers on RK Mutt Road and nearby areas would have spent money to clean their sumps**
>
> –Naveen R., resident

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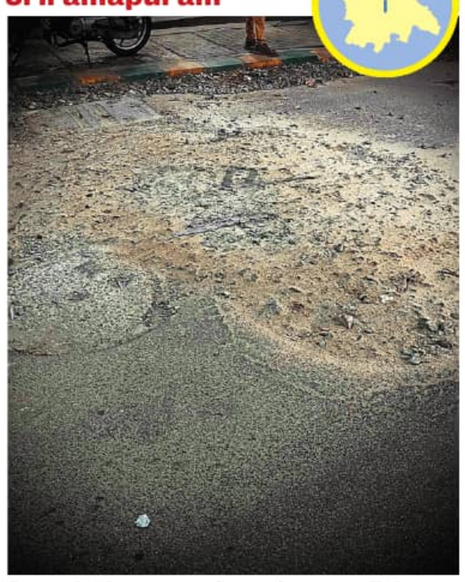
Sanitation woes
JP Nagar

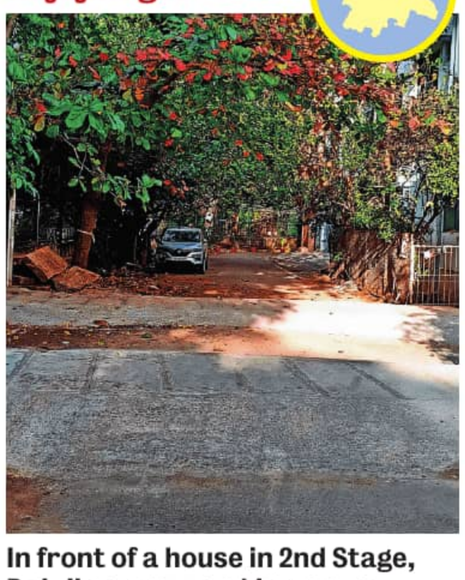
Residents of 8th Phase, JP Nagar, Kothnur, have reported drain water overflowing onto the road near a water pipeline and valve. They also raised concerns about stray dogs and roaming bulls in the area.

Pothole persist
Sriramapuram



A pothole opposite a bar on 7th Main, Sriramapuram, has remained unattended, causing inconvenience to commuters and residents.

Health hazard
Rajajinagar



In front of a house in 2nd Stage, Rajajinagar, a parking space remains cluttered despite repeated complaints, causing increased mosquito menace over the past two days.

‘Festive shakedown’ proves too costly for businessmen

Our daily turnover is less than Rs 10,000, then how can we give Rs 15,000, ask victims of gangs that have been barging into establishments demanding money, creating ruckus

CCTV grab of group of transgender persons allegedly barging into Chai Club on Tuesday and demanding money from management

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Reports of individuals claiming to be transgender persons engaging in extortion have become increasingly frequent in the city, despite complaints being filed with the police. Victims include shop owners facing financial strain, families hosting housewarming events, and parents celebrating occasions such as birthdays, weddings, or puberty ceremonies, who have allegedly been pressured to pay large sums of money.

In a recent incident, a group of transgender persons barged into Chai Club on Tuesday demanding Rs 15,000 from the management. It is alleged that a group of transgenders, citing their intent to celebrate Diwali, entered Chai Club, occupied seats, and created a disturbance, causing inconvenience to customers.

Madhu Sudhan, Managing Director, The Chai Club, said that the establishment has been struggling a lot due to a slump in business. “A group of transgenders just barged into our outlet and started demanding Rs 15,000 as a gift. Our daily turnover does not cross even Rs 10,000 per day due to slump in business. How can they demand such a huge amount as a Diwali gift,” he said. He said the staff requested them to accept whatever was offered, but the individuals remained adamant and refused to cooperate. “Finally, I have to inform the Hoysala team. My complaint ID is CFS5417037. I expected the Hoysala team to take action against the transgenders for extortion but the police let them go without any punishment,” he said.

Expressing a similar opinion, Mohammed Manzoor, who owns a boutique shop, said that the extortion has become a nuisance for him. He said that several transgender individuals visit daily, demanding hundreds of rupees from staff and patrons. “They also demand that I give saris to them if I fail to give money. How can I give those saris belonging to customers? I own a small boutique shop here. The transgenders demand money on a daily basis,” said Manzoor, adding that the police should take suitable action.

Raghavendra Poojari, who owns a cloth shop at RPC Layout, said that he was compelled to lodge a police complaint when a group of transgenders barged into his shop demanding Rs 10,000. “My sister agreed to pay Rs 1000 but they insisted for Rs 10,000. One of my friends was compelled to shift the puberty ceremony of his daughter to the rooftop to avoid nuisance from transgenders. He told me that transgenders indulge in all types of nuisance if money was not given to them,” he said.

Poojari, who also works as Programme Lead at BPAC, said there are some skill development programmes, welfare schemes and employment opportunities for sexual minorities but not many of them would like to become self-reliant by utilising such programmes.

Akkai Padmashali, a trans activist, said that she received some complaints about transgenders indulging in extortion. “You send me the CCTV footage. I will check. It is wrong for any transgender person to indulge in extortion,” said Padmashali.

The HSR Layout Police Inspector said that he was not aware of the extortion incident. “I will look into the matter. I will enquire with the Hoysala team about the extortion incident,” the Police Inspector said.

Trans activist condemns incidents of extortion, seeks video evidence of incidents and complaints to review it; police also promise to look into matter

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One held for series of thefts: Gold, silver and bike retrieved

The Kumaraswamy Layout police have arrested a man involved in multiple thefts across the city, including house burglaries and vehicle thefts, recovering gold and silver ornaments along with a stolen two-wheeler worth Rs 28 lakh.

The case began after a farmer from Gangadhar Nagar filed a complaint on September 11, reporting that his house had been broken into while he and his wife were away. The couple returned home to find the locks broken, with gold jewellery worth around Rs 3 lakh missing.

Acting on credible information, police detained the suspect in Kanakapura on October 7. During interrogation, the accused confessed to committing the house theft in Kumaraswamy Layout, and also admitted to stealing earrings and a two-wheeler within the limits of Konanakunte and Chandra Layout Police Stations. —BMB

Stolen two-wheelers worth Rs 1.5 lakh recovered

The RT Nagar police have arrested a man involved in multiple two-wheeler thefts across the city, recovering four stolen bikes valued at Rs 1.5 lakh.

The case was registered in March 2024 after a resident of Ganganagar reported that his parked two-wheeler had been stolen from outside his home during the night of March 21.

Following months of investigation and inputs from informants, police apprehended the suspect on October 6, 2025. The stolen bike from the case was found in his possession.

During interrogation, the accused confessed to stealing several two-wheelers from all over the city and revealed that three more stolen bikes were parked at Onion Maidan. Acting on his statement, police recovered all three vehicles. The accused was produced before the court on October 7 and remanded to judicial custody. —BMB

RTI blacklist is here to stay

The Karnataka High Court has refused to stay an order passed by the State Information Commissioner blacklisting a man from filing applications under the Right to Information (RTI) Act, observing that the court “cannot allow misuse of the RTI Act.”

Justice Suraj Govindaraj, while issuing notice to the state government and other respondents, directed the government advocate to place on record details of the applications filed by the petitioner and the kind of information he had sought.

The petitioner, Devaprasad K, had approached the High Court challenging the order dated January 28, by which the Karnataka State Information Commissioner had blacklisted and barred him from seeking any information under the RTI Act.

Appearing for the petitioner, counsel argued that more than 400 RTI applications had been filed on different subjects, and that there was no repetition or similarity in the queries raised. He contended that the petitioner had merely exercised his statutory right to seek information and that the Act imposed no limitation on the number of applications a citizen could file.

IN HIGH COURT

However, Justice Govindaraj declined to grant interim relief. “You cannot be filing 400 applications even if you are a public-spirited person,” the judge observed.

The court added that it would examine the nature of the petitioner’s RTI filings before any decision. The bench posted the matter for further hearing on November 12. —BMB

Officials must not use strip-&-search method

The Karnataka High Court restrained the state government and its officials from using any ‘strip and search’ methods while conducting the ongoing ‘transgender survey’. The court also directed that all information collected during the exercise be kept strictly confidential.

A division bench comprising Chief Justice Vibhu Bakhru and Justice CM Poonacha passed the interim order while hearing a petition filed by the Anita Humanitarian Foundation. The petitioner challenged the government’s decision to conduct the gender minority survey, alleging that it violates the Transgender Persons (Protection of Rights) Act, 2019, and Articles 14 and 21 of the Constitution, which guarantee equality and the right to privacy and dignity.

The petition claimed that officials had been identifying transgender persons through ‘strip and search’ methods in hospitals and other facilities, often carried out by individuals who did not share the same gender identity. Counsel for the Foundation argued that such practices were “degrading and unnecessary,” pointing out that transgender persons already possess government-issued identity cards under existing law.

Directing the State to file its statement of objections by December 5, the court emphasised that participation in the survey must be strictly voluntary.

“We restrain the respondents from conducting any identification by strip and search method, till the next date of hearing. We further direct that any information collected during the survey be kept strictly confidential and not be disseminated,” the bench ordered.

The court also instructed the Department of Social Welfare to file an affidavit within three days detailing the mechanisms being used to ensure confidentiality of the collected data.

The matter will be next heard on December 5. —BMB

Dry season turns half of Bandipur inhospitable for gaurs

Study reveals Indian gaurs face resource scarcity during dry months, pushing them outside Bandipur and heightening tiger-human conflict risk

Garima Prasher
garima.prasher
@timesofindia.com

TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

During dry seasons, nearly half of Bandipur Tiger Reserve (BTR) becomes inhospitable to Indian gaurs — a major prey species crucial for tiger and forest conservation.

A recent habitat analysis of the Indian gaur at BTR, conducted by researchers from the Salim Ali Centre for Ornithology and Natural History (SACON) in Tamil Nadu, the University of KwaZulu-Natal in South Africa, and the Karnataka Forest Department, shows that over 48 percent of the reserve turns into low-resource zones during the dry season. In contrast, less than 23 percent of the area remains highly suitable for the herbivore. During the wet season, 43.83 percent of BTR becomes highly suitable, 21.01 percent moderately suitable, and 35.15 percent less suitable.

Researchers evaluated habitat suitability based on factors such as rainfall, the presence of shrubs and grasses, and access to water. During the dry season, the scarcity of these resources forces gaurs to move out of the forest in search of food and water. This not only threatens their survival but also increases the risk of human-animal conflict, as tigers often follow their prey beyond forest boundaries.

"Previous studies have established that the Indian gaur is a major prey species of tigers. However, gaurs do not stay in areas where their habitat has deteriorated, which is the case with BTR. This can lead to human-animal conflicts as both species venture into nearby human settlements," said Subhadra Barik of SACON's Division of Conservation Ecology.

Experts urge habitat restoration and invasive weed removal to ensure gaurs stay within Bandipur, reducing conflict and supporting tiger survival

Researchers warn nearly half of Bandipur Tiger Reserve loses habitat suitability for Indian gaurs in dry seasons, driving them toward villages and increasing tiger conflict risks amid invasive plant overgrowth

To address this issue, researchers have submitted a detailed management plan to the Karnataka Forest Department to improve the habitat condition of Indian gaurs. While the department has installed solar-powered pumps to replenish waterholes, sources indicate that many are poorly maintained. Researchers have also recommended setting up more perennial water sources and restoring grasslands to ensure food availability throughout the year. They added that enhancing natural salt licks and maintaining artificial ponds can further support wildlife resilience during prolonged dry spells.

The study found that Maddur, GS Betta, and Bandipur ranges retain suitable habitat for gaurs even during the dry season. However, these are also major tourism zones. "We have recommended that tourism activities be managed carefully in these areas. Since gaurs are shy animals, frequent tourist movement affects their habitat preferences. Tourism should ideally be diverted to other ranges during the dry season," Barik added.

Researchers identified the overgrowth of invasive plant species, particularly Lantana camara, as another key factor behind the habitat's degradation. "Lantana secretes a chemical that inhibits the growth of native plant and grass species, indirectly reducing the availability of forage for gaurs," Barik said.

Wildlife conservationists have urged the department to implement large-scale, long-term removal of Lantana instead of patchwork clearing. "The department must allocate sufficient funds and take up comprehensive restoration of the ecosystem to support herbivore populations," said wildlife conservationist Giridhar Kulkarni.

He added that the study underscores how gaur habitat suitability changes sharply between seasons, influenced by forest type, elevation, and human disturbance. "Effective conservation planning is essential to maintain ecological balance, reduce conflict risks, and ensure the survival of both prey and predator species within the reserve. Sustainable water management and invasive control must go hand in hand for lasting results."

Behind Bengaluru's seams: Women power city's global garment hubs

Bangalore Mirror Bureau
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A new report by the Alternative Law Forum (ALF) titled "Stitching Lives, Organising Workers: Collectivising Efforts in the Export-Oriented Garment Industry in Bengaluru" offers a detailed and grounded look into the lives of thousands of garment workers who power the city's export industry. Authored by researcher Swathi Shivanand, the study traces the evolution of Bengaluru's garment sector and the collective struggles of its largely women workforce.

The report highlights how Bengaluru, while known as India's technology capital, also owes much of its growth to the garment industry — a major source of employment for women from low-income and migrant communities. Since the early 2000s, export-oriented factories across Bengaluru and its outskirts have supplied global brands, employing thousands of women who work long hours under intense production pressure for low pay. The study documents "production torture," a term used to describe the stressful work environment marked by unrealistic targets, verbal abuse, and threats of wage cuts or dismissal.

Labour unions like GATWU and Munnade have strengthened women's voices, ensuring improved conditions and reduced harassment

Over the years, workers have sought to organise and demand better conditions. Unions like the Garment and Textile Workers' Union (GATWU) and Garment Mahila Karmikara Munnade have played pivotal roles in building awareness and improving labour standards. Their persistent efforts have led to gradual progress — such as reductions in harassment, fairer wages, and enforcement of maternity and overtime rights wherever union presence is strong.

The report also tracks how rising land and labour costs have pushed many factories to peri-urban and rural areas like Ramanagara, Tumakuru, and Kolar. While rural workers often show more openness to joining unions due to relative job stability, the remoteness of these areas and lack of infrastructure have made sustained union engagement difficult. This geographic shift has reshaped the nature of collective organising, demanding new strategies to maintain solidarity among dispersed workers.

ALF identifies several structural barriers that perpetuate exploitation — including the heavy use of contract labour, recruitment of interstate migrants unfamiliar with local laws, and intentional fragmentation of the workforce to prevent collective action. Weak enforcement of labour laws and pro-industry state policies have further deepened worker vulnerability.

The report calls for stronger enforcement of minimum wage laws, protection against unfair dismissals, and formal recognition of independent trade unions. It urges state-led initiatives to support worker education, safe transport for women, and welfare measures for migrants. Expanding collective bargaining rights and ensuring government accountability, ALF argues, are essential for a fairer and more sustainable industry.

Ultimately, Stitching Lives, Organising Workers stands as both a documentation of resilience and a critique of systemic neglect.

Bengaluru's garment workers stitch city's global identity with dignity and resilience.

State's literacy lags behind peers

Karnataka has recorded a literacy rate of 82.7% among persons aged seven years and above, as per the latest Periodic Labour Force Survey (PLFS) 2023–24. This places the state in the 15th position nationally, above the national average of 80.9%.

Within South India, Karnataka ranks third, behind Kerala (95.3%) and Tamil Nadu (85.5%), but ahead of Telangana (76.9%) and Andhra Pradesh (72.6%). Kerala continues to lead the country, while Andhra Pradesh remains at the bottom among southern states.

Several states and Union Territories continue to perform better than Karnataka, including Kerala, Mizoram, Nagaland, Lakshadweep, Meghalaya, Goa, Tripura, Chandigarh, Puducherry, Manipur, Himachal Pradesh, Maharashtra, Assam, and Delhi. Despite steady improvement, Karnataka still trails these high-performing regions.

The PLFS data highlights sharp contrasts nationwide — Mizoram (98.2%) has emerged as the most literate state, followed by Nagaland (95.7%), Kerala (95.3%), and Meghalaya (94.2%). In contrast, Bihar (74.3%) and Rajasthan (75.8%) remain among the least literate.

Experts say that while Karnataka's literacy rate comfortably surpasses the national average, challenges persist. Bridging regional and social gaps, strengthening rural education, and promoting women's and digital literacy are key to helping the state match southern peers like Tamil Nadu and move higher in national rankings. **–BMB**

DKS slams Kiran Shaw over tweets

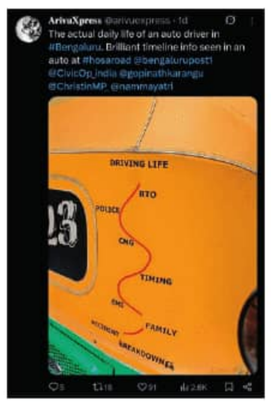
Deputy Chief Minister DK Shivakumar on Wednesday hit out at Biocon Chief Kiran Mazumdar Shaw for her recent social media remarks on Bengaluru's poor infrastructure. Responding to her post about a foreign visitor complaining of bad roads, Shivakumar accused her of tarnishing the image of the state and country. "Where was she for the last 25 years? Bengaluru has contributed the most to her success. Those who criticise must remember how much land the government gave them to build their business," he said.

On the issue of potholes, he said the government is doing its best and that a new IT hub corporation with a revenue base of ₹1,500 crore has been formed to independently develop the area. "Let all companies reveal what they're doing with CSR funds. If they want to threaten us through tweets, it's their choice," he remarked, adding that India follows democratic processes, unlike China.

When asked about Google setting up its AI Hub in Andhra Pradesh, he said it was due to concessions offered there, adding that "no one is leaving Bengaluru." He stressed that the city's inherent strengths continue to attract investors without the need for promotion. **–BMB**

SOCIALTATTLE

IMAGE OF THE DAY



A post shared by @arivuexpress on the daily life of an auto driver in #Bengaluru was depicted through a timeline spotted in an auto at #HosaRoad.

WHAT'S TWEETING

A post by X user @0Bangaloreboy says that footpaths continue to be occupied by street vendors, forcing pedestrians to walk on the road. Despite four days of reminders, no response has been received. They had tagged @BWCCofficial @kmpalyatrfps @blrcitytraffic @osd_cmkarnataka @GBA_office @GBAChiefComm @DKShivakumar #Bengaluru #GBA

Rajesh Naidu
@Allu_Rajesh
Follow
@blrcitytraffic @ecitytrfps @ChristinMP_ @CivicOp_india Police cant handle everything alone, people need civic sense too. Just look at the vehicles breaking the one-way rule at Hosa Road and blocking other entries. Please fine every vehicle whose number plate is visible in this

@Allu_Rajesh says in a post that the police cannot handle everything alone and that civic sense is also needed among people. Vehicles breaking the one-way rule at Hosa Road and blocking other entries were pointed out.

BM TAGGED

U/margazi_perumal_20 posted on r/Bengaluru that a biker was manhandled by a traffic policeman despite the officer having no authority to do so. The user questioned the misuse of power. According to sources the incident happened near Silk Board Junction, South division.

Man attacks former college junior over texts to female friend

A former college student allegedly attacked a junior with a knife after being confronted over inappropriate messages sent to a female classmate. Two youths have been taken into custody in connection with the incident.

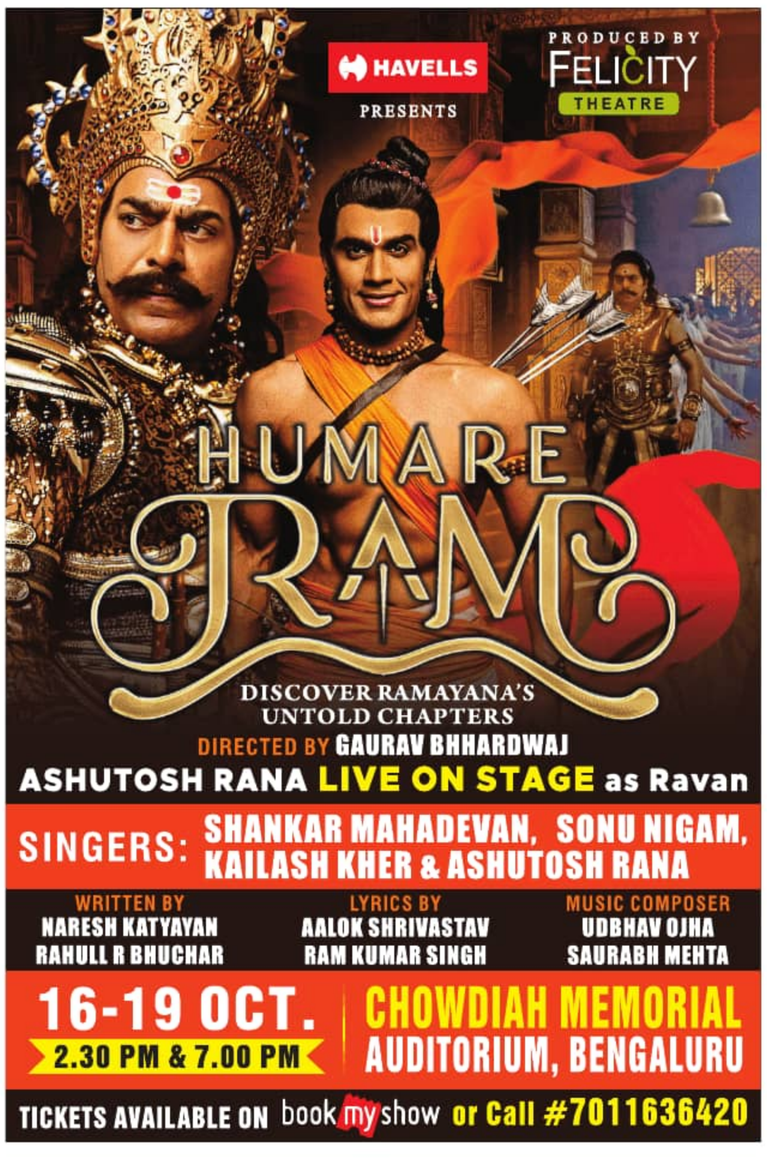
According to police, the senior student had sent inappropriate messages to a girl, who confided in her classmate, Vaibhav. When Vaibhav confronted the senior student on the road in RT Nagar on October 11, the accused reportedly pulled out a knife and attacked him, injuring his stomach and shoulder.

The accused have been identified as Prabhudev and Ganesh, both former students of Adarsh College. Senior police official said that the attack occurred after messages were sent to a girl student. A complaint was lodged on Tuesday, following which the two accused were arrested.

The DCP added that the prime accused, Prabhudev, had completed his PUC from the same college and currently works as an ambulance driver, while Ganesh had completed Class 10 and works at a KFC kitchen. "The knife will be recovered and the Arms Act invoked. No prior cases were registered against them, and we are examining their backgrounds," he said. **-BMB**

KEA told to amend admission norms

The Karnataka High Court has instructed the Karnataka Examinations Authority (KEA) to revise its eligibility criteria for admissions to professional colleges, ensuring that Overseas Citizens of India (OCI) students are given fair and equal consideration. The revised norms are to be implemented from the next academic year onwards. **-BMB**



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Sree Kalyanarama Company operating three (3) mining leases having Pegmatite (Mica, Quartz & Feldspar) deposits for over a century in the state of AP is inviting applications from eligible candidates to the following full-time posts to work with the organisation in its offices or mines at Gudur, Tirupati District / Kalichedu, SPSR Nellore District, AP.

1) **Position : Assistant Manager – Accounts**
Qualification: CA Inter / CMA Inter qualified person or M.Com post graduates having minimum experience of at-least 5 years in the accounting, audit and tax domains. Responsibility: To handle entire accounts (incl. finalisation of accounts), assistance in statutory audits, TDS & GST compliances, filing of tax returns, other statutory filings, preparation of MIS, etc. of group of mines.

2) Position : Geologist
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Interested candidates may apply in confidence within seven (7) days with full bio-data (soft copy) along with latest passport photograph, contact information, education or qualification, experience, current gross salary drawn per month and salary expectations, etc. to the aforesaid email id.

NOTE : CANDIDATES WHO HAVE SUBMITTED THEIR APPLICATIONS FOR THE ABOVE POSTS IN THE PAST SIX (6) MONTHS NEED NOT APPLY AGAIN.

Place: Gudur, Tirupati Dist., AP
Date: October 15, 2025
Managing Partner
Sree Kalyanarama Compay

Cleaning up becomes act of resource circulation

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Solid Waste Management Round Table (SWMRT) noted, "Apartment associations, classified as bulk generators, can play a huge role. Their actions can even have a rippling effect. While treating such initiatives as a one-day event may not make much of a difference, a beginning can certainly be made even by communities that do not yet have a proper waste management system in place."

"To start with, set up collection drives within your own community for reusable items like clothes, books, toys, electronics, etc. Tie up with NGOs and/or recycling vendors to ensure these items find the right destination. In our community, we once organised a low-cost sale for our house helps, cooks, and drivers, where residents gave away items they no longer needed. Hundreds of items, including home appliances, were sold — some for just Rs 50 or Rs 100. This way, decluttering became a mindful act of resource circulation, not just disposal," she explained.

How authorities can help

She noted that authorities can support citizen-driven initiatives by first listing verified recyclers, repair units, and donation NGOs on official websites. "If they come forward to provide logistical support to collect e-waste, textiles and other bulky items -- not just during festivals but also periodically -- which can be reused or recycled, that not only saves resources but also reduces burden on landfills. Next, it is high time the authorities showed interest in running city-level campaigns to turn what has been so far purely a voluntary community action into a city-wide habit," she said. She stressed on the need to focus on Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR).

Experts say concept of thrift is catching on too. "We often see street waste piled up with clothes or shoes, so the best advice is to ensure it reaches someone who will appreciate it. These days, there are volunteers working to reach unwanted items to users. Also coming up is the thrift store concept, with 'second hand clothes' no longer a taboo. More people are embracing 'pre-loved', a far more appropriate term that also shows a love for conserving the planet's resources," said Odette Katrak Founder, Beautiful Bharat.

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I, Mohammad Hanif, s/o Isubu Byari R/at No.34, K.N.143/2/34, 1st Floor, Medina Nagar, Mangammanapalya Popular Colony,Venkoji Rd, Bommanah-alli,B'lore-560068 have changed my name to Mohammed Haneef for all purposes.

I Shriya Vijeth Hegde D/o Vijetha Srinivas Hegde, Residing at,N-003, Mantri Paradise,Arekere Gate,Banner-ghatta Road, Bengaluru 560076. have changed my name to Shriya Hegde for all purposes

I,RAJESHWARI ,R/o No.19, 10th Main, 13th Cross,Maruthinagar, Malleshpalya,Bangalore - 560075 have changed my name from Rajeshwari to Rachitha G S.

I Thejaswini D/O, Narashimha Bhagwath R/o No-442 Lig-a Building-50, Shirke Apartments, Khb Colony, Kengeri Upanagara, Bangalore-560060 have changed my name to Thejaswini S B.

I, MOHAMMED ANWAR PASHA, R/a.#71/6, 9th Main Road Devaraj Urs Nagar, Bengaluru-560026. I, have Changed my name to MOHAMMED ANWAR, Vide affidavit dated 01/10/2025 Sworn before Notary H.S Sakalesh Aradhya Bangalore

I, ANJALI JAIN residing at B-6, Lakshmi Complex, BBMP Road, Yelahanka old town, Bengaluru-560064. I have changed my name to ANJALI JAIN M. Vide affidavit dated 15/10/2025 sworn before notary. T V Bhadravijaya Bengaluru

I, MOHAMED FAISAL ABDUL SAMATH residing at # No 52/1 Haines Road Near Coles Park Frazer Town Bangalore-560005. I have changed my name to MOHAMED FAISAL ABDUL SAMAD. Vide affidavit dated 13/10/2025 sworn before notary. B S Padmaprasad Bengaluru

tender & notices

PUBLIC NOTICE

PUBLIC NOTICE

The General Public are hereby notified that, our clients **Mr. S. Venkataramanan,** S/o. G. Subramaniam and **Mrs. Jayanthy V.,** W/o. S. Venkataramanan, both together residing at Flat No. D3, 82/12, Sree Ramana Flats, Bazullah Road, Thygarayanagar H.O., Chennai-600017, are the absolute owners of the schedule mentioned property and they have lost the below listed **original documents:**

a). Possession Certificate dated: 18/08/1973.
b). Allotment Letter.
c). Registered Power of Attorney dated: 18/02/1983, Document No. 489/1983-84 of Book-IV, Volume- 38 at pages 19 to 23 in the office of the Sub-Registrar, Jayanagar, Bangalore.
d). Registered Power of Attorney dated: 03/06/1994, Document No. 203/1994-95 of Book-IV, Volume-146 at pages 120 to 122 in the office of the Sub-Registrar, Jayanagar, Bangalore.

The above said documents have been misplaced/lost during their last visit to Bangalore in the year 2015, as such, the same is reported to the Bangalore City Police vide., Lost Article Report No. 1851901/2025 dated: 15/10/2025, as such, the public at large are hereby advised to be cautious about person/s claiming any right/interest under the guise of the above said original documents.

The public are hereby given notice that any person/s or any incorporated body having found the above said original documents, to return the same to the undersigned forthwith or if any person/s or any incorporated body claiming any right, title or interest of any nature or having any lien, charge or enforceable right in respect of the schedule property may put forth their claims in writing with the undersigned together with supporting documents within **15 days** from this date, failing which it will be presumed that no valid claim/s or objection/s subsist and the Schedule Property is free from all encumbrances.

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All that piece and parcel of the residential house property bearing No. 839, Situated at 17th Main Road, B.S.K. 2nd Stage, Bengaluru, a layout formed by the Bangalore Development Authority known as Block II Stage in Banashankari Extn., Bengaluru, measuring East to West: 60'-0" feet and North to South: 40'-0" feet in all admeasuring 2400 Square feet and bounded on: **East by:** Site No. 836; **West by:** Road; **North by:** Site No. 838; **South by:** Site No. 840.

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Call: 9845712345.

Place: Bengaluru, Date: 16.10.2025

ROUNAQH

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GET NOTICED

HEALTH TIP: For vitamin A, include foods such as cheese, eggs, and colorful vegetables like carrots and bell peppers in your daily diet

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WEIGHT & WATCH

Should I increase weights at the gym? How often? And by how much?

Many of us go to the gym to bulk up. But how does it actually work?

When you lift weights, it increases tension on the fibres in your muscles, and causes metabolic by-products (such as lactate and hydrogen) and inflammation to build up in the muscle tissue.

These signals tell your muscles to adapt and grow stronger.

But if your aim is to build muscle, lifting the same weight the same number of times every week won't be enough; you need to continually increase the load or do more repetitions. This is known as "progressive overload".

So, how do you know when to increase weight? And how much should you add? Let's take a look.

Knowing how much you can increase

No matter how keen you are, the exact rate your muscles develop is mostly outside your control.

Your genetics likely play a role. Some people will simply adapt to lifting weights faster than others, meaning they can add weight more quickly. However, lifestyle factors are also important.

Your body is more likely to be able to adapt when you get enough sleep, eat enough protein and keep life stress to a minimum. Otherwise, your progress is likely to be slower.

If you're new to weight training, you will also likely improve faster than someone who has been training for years. This is sometimes known as "newbie gains" – especially noticeable in the first year of training.

But the more you train, the more your body adapts. Basically, the closer you are to your genetic "ceiling" – the natural limit to how much you can lift – the slower you will improve.

2 methods to increase weight

There are lots of ways you can increase weight in the gym. But we'll focus on two good ones.

If you are a beginner, using the "linear progression" method is great. This means adding a small amount of weight (for example, 2.5kg) every week or two, while trying to keep your number of repetitions – or "reps" – the same.

For example, in week one, you might do five reps on the leg press at 50kg. Then in weeks two and three, you increase to five reps at 52.5 kg, and by week four or five you're doing five reps at 55 kg.

However, you'll reach a point where you can't just add the same amount of weight every couple of weeks. This is when you might try something like the "double progression" method.

Using this approach, you would pick a set and rep range, such as three sets of 8–12 reps. When you can finally do three sets of 12 reps, you increase the weight a little.

At the new higher weight, you might only be able to do eight reps in each set. So you work to slowly increase the number of reps, until you get back up to three sets of 12.

Then, repeat the process: add a little weight and start again at eight reps. How can I tell I'm ready to lift more?

If the weights are feeling too light, or you can easily manage all your prescribed sets and reps, then it could be time to increase.

But you can add weight even when it's still feeling challenging.

Research shows most people overestimate how hard they are working in the gym, and underestimate how much weight they can lift or how many reps they can do.

So keeping a logbook to track your progress is a good idea. This allows you to look back and try to beat what you did last week – by either going slightly heavier or adding another rep or two to your set.

You won't beat your logbook every week. But if increasing weight is your aim, it can help keep you on track and know what to aim for so you keep getting stronger.

When should I ease off?

Two signs might suggest you need to back off a little.

First, if the way you do the repetition is changing drastically as you add more weight, this might suggest you are simply making the movement easier, rather than getting stronger.

For example, if you add weight to your squat but start squatting shallower, this probably isn't actually increasing the load on your muscles.

Second, if you're feeling unusually fatigued or like you're getting weaker every week, you might need to take it easy for a week to recover. This can be a sign of overtraining, which commonly happens when people don't allow adequate rest between sessions.

Can you increase weight too quickly?

Weight training is incredibly safe – especially compared to other sports.

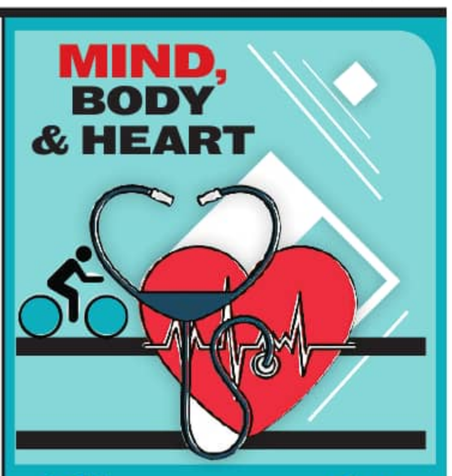
But it can sometimes still be a good idea to take it slow, especially when you're new to weight training. You'll find you can increase strength very quickly. But this is also when you're learning how to perform movements correctly, and your body is adapting to the new stress.

So keeping your weight increases small (for example, just 2.5 kg every couple of weeks) will give you a chance to refine your technique and build tolerance gradually. This may also help protect against injuries.

Finally, don't stress if you are unable to increase weight for a few weeks (or even months).

If the training still feels hard, you can be pretty confident that it is helping you build muscle and get stronger.

(By Hunter Bennett, University of South Australia, The Conversation)



All you need to know about...

Good morning habits

1. Hydration
Drinking water right after waking up is one of the simplest yet most effective ways to boost your energy. During sleep, your body loses fluids and dehydration can make you feel sluggish, tired and even irritable. By drinking a glass of water first thing in the morning, you jumpstart your metabolism, help flush out toxins and rehydrate your cells.

2. Limit Screen Time
Starting your day by immediately checking your phone, emails or social media can drain your energy before you even fully wake up. Scrolling through notifications floods your brain with information, distractions and sometimes stress, which can leave you feeling mentally exhausted. Instead, give yourself at least 30–60 minutes in the morning without screens to focus on your own routine which is hydration, movement, breakfast or mindful practices.

3. Light Exercise
Engaging in some form of morning movement, even if it's just 10–15 minutes, can drastically improve your energy levels. Stretching, yoga or a short walk increases blood flow, releases endorphins and wakes up your muscles and joints after hours of inactivity.

4. Balanced Breakfast
A nutritious breakfast fuels your body for the hours ahead. Eating something that combines protein, healthy fats and complex carbohydrates ensures a steady release of energy rather than a quick spike and crash. Options like eggs with whole-grain toast, oatmeal with nuts and fruits or a smoothie with protein and vegetables can keep you feeling full and focused.

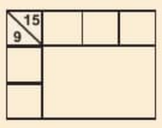
5. Meditation
Taking even 5–10 minutes for mindful breathing or meditation can dramatically increase your energy and focus. Deep breathing helps oxygen circulate efficiently throughout your body, calming your nervous system and reducing stress hormones.

— Femina

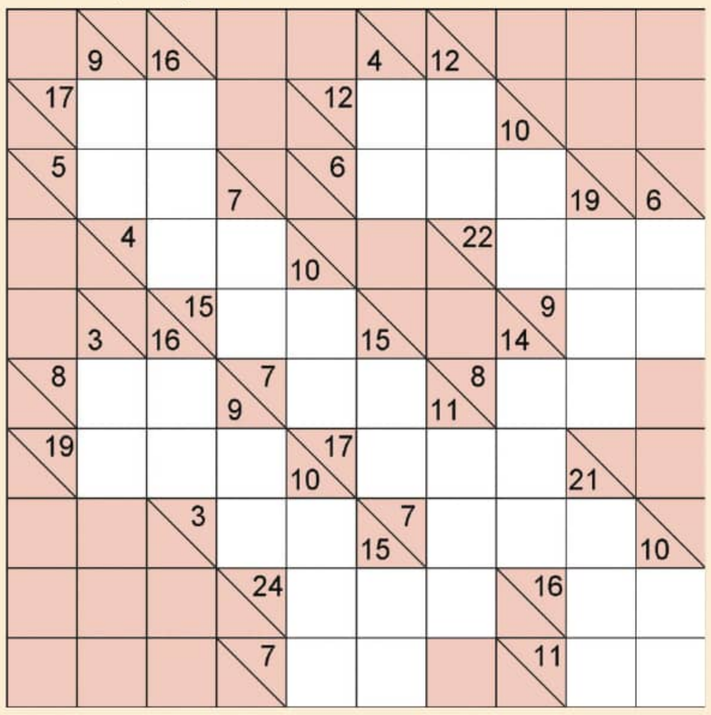
mybangaloremirror@timesofindia.com
facebook.com/theBangaloremirror
@BangaloreMirror

Kakuro

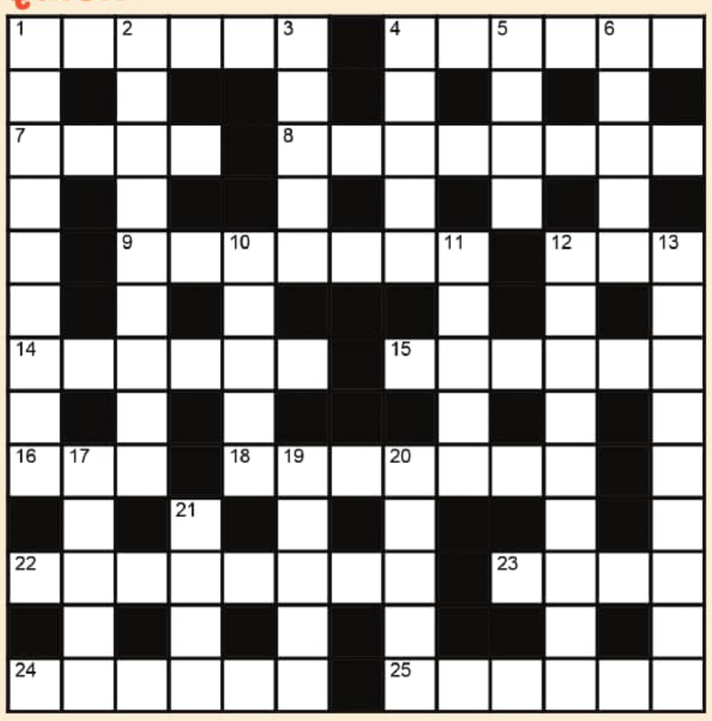
The numbers in the grey squares refer to the sums of the digits that you must fill into the empty spaces directly below or to the right of the grey square containing the number. For instance, in the given example, the 3 boxes horizontally next to 15 must contain 3 digits that add up to 15, whereas for 9, it is the 2 boxes placed vertically under it that must add up to 9. No zeros are used here, only the digits 1 through 9.



Note: A digit cannot appear more than once in any particular digit combination. For instance, in the example, we cannot have the combination of 4+7+4 for 15.



Quick



ACROSS

1 One of the Baltic countries (6)
4 Dismiss temporarily? (3,3)
7 Belgian river (4)
8 Ill-defined (8)
9 Marks of infamy (7)
12 Tokyo's former name (3)
14 ____ the losses : make a profit now to break even? (6)
15 Twist or contort in pain (6)
16 Take to wings (3)
18 Sign of stinging arachnid (7)
22 22 acre park between M.G Road and Cubbon Road (8)
23 Carte du jour (4)
24 Not as fresh (6)
25 Gossip, chatter (6)

DOWN

1 Dismissing employees because of slack business? (6,3)
2 African bug (3,3,3)
3 It may develop when things don't seem to be going smoothly (1,4)
4 Tripoli is its capital (5)
5 Yap like a pup (4)
6 Variable (5)
10 Notions (5)
11 Share certificate (5)
12 Person with an outgoing personality (9)
13 Sixty seconds (3,6)
17 Minimal (5)
19 Escapade (5)
20 Respond to stimulus (5)
21 Liquid measure (4)

Quoteuncode

This puzzle is a substitution cipher in which one letter stands for another. If you think that Q equals C, it will equal C throughout the puzzle. Single letters, short words and words using an apostrophe give you clues to locating vowels. Solution is by trial and error.

Today's CLUE: R EQUALS D

ESQC JMX SLAQ
CMWSYCU YFTMGWLCW
MG YCWQGQVWYCU WM
VLJ, RMC'W KQW LCJMCQ
TQGVXLRQ JMX WM VLJ YW.

Linemaro

You wanna know who would make my life complete? Read the first word in this sentence

Mindchow

It is not the man who has too little, but the man who craves more, that is poor

Joke of the day

There is no room for amateurs... even in crossing the streets

Loop

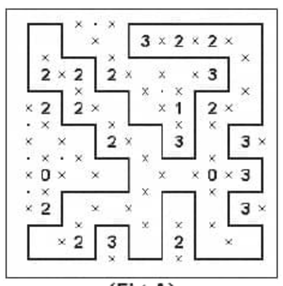
Rules

» Connect adjacent dots with vertical or horizontal lines, creating a single loop (Fig A). » Crossovers or branches are not allowed (As shown by dotted lines in Fig B). » Numbers in the puzzle indicate the number of lines that should surround it, while empty cells may be surrounded by any number of lines. » You can't draw lines around zeros. » Each puzzle has just one unique solution.

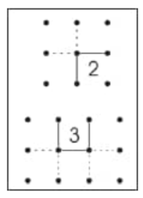
How to begin:

Example (Fig A) – Begin with the zero next to 3. Since no lines can be drawn around zero, mark crosses around it, as shown. Now there is a cross in one space around 3. So we know the three lines of 3 can only be drawn in the remaining three spaces. Next, these lines can only be extended in one direction each. Continue, using the same logic.

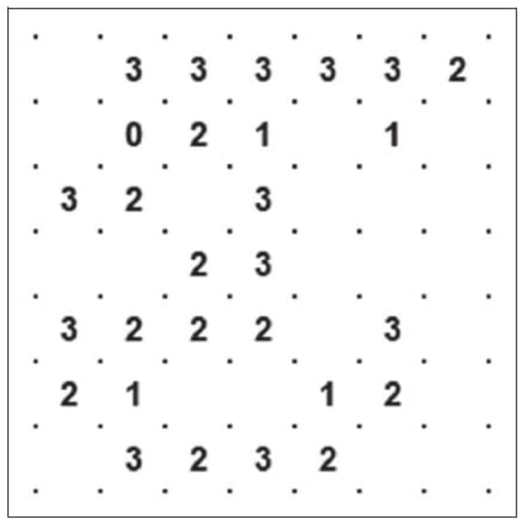
Hints: Keep eliminating possibilities by marking crosses in spaces between dots where a line isn't possible, i.e., if you have already completed required lines or where a line extension may create a branch or cause a dead-end (Fig B)



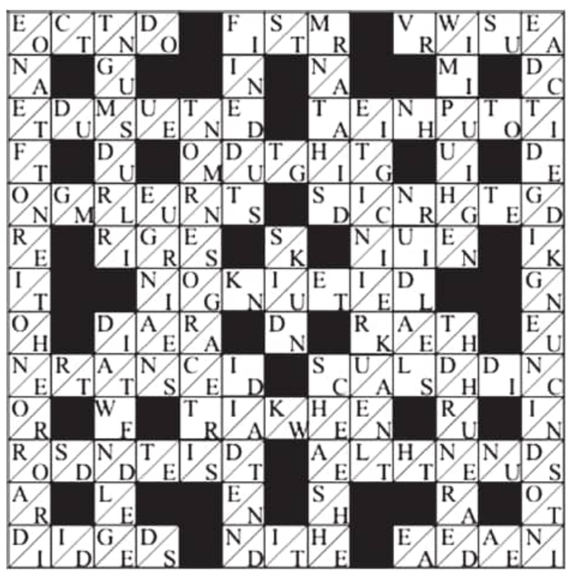
(Fig A)



(Fig B) Not Allowed



Strikeout



This crossword has no clues and the answer is there waiting for you. All you have to do is find it in each square. You have a choice of two letters, one of which you must strike out. If you choose correctly, you will be left with a grid that contains real words.

Fast five

How long do you think it will take you to unscramble the ten words shown below and fit them correctly into the grid in the order given one letter has already been entered to get you started? on your marks, get set...

1	2	3	4 P	5
6				
7				
8				
9				

ACROSS

1 SS Hip; 6 Comae; 7 Braun; 8 Seder; 9 DD Loy

DOWN

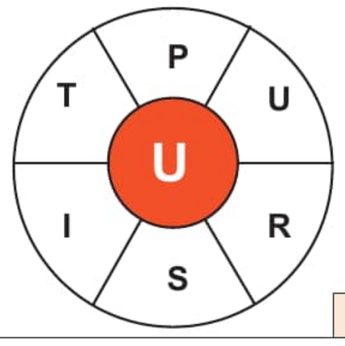
1 US doc; 2 Heard; 3 Bedim; 4 Paler; 5 Y sons

Mensapuzzle

Which number replaces the question mark and completes the puzzle?

5	2	7
4	2	6
3	2	?

Bull's eye



How many words of four or more letters can you make from the letters shown? Every word must contain the central letter. There should be one seven-letter word. British English Dictionary is used as a reference.

04 Average; **05** Good; **07** Outstanding

SudokuChallenge

5	6							
		1		9				6
3	4				5	9	8	
	2					1		9
			6	4	3			
4		5					3	
	5	4	9				2	3
8				7		5		
							9	4

To solve a Sudoku puzzle, every digit from one to nine must appear in each of the nine vertical columns, in each of the nine horizontal rows and in each of the nine boxes.

Gofigure

Place the four numbers in the first, third, fifth, and seventh boxes and whatever operators you care to use in the second, fourth, and sixth boxes in the correct order to get the answer. Use the numbers only once.

Easy = 11

4 6 8 9

Medium = 20

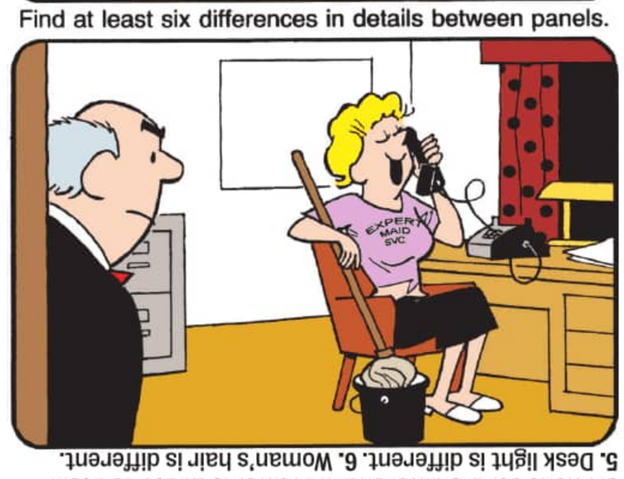
1 4 7 8

Hard = 14

2 7 7 7

Hocusfocus

Find at least six differences in details between panels.



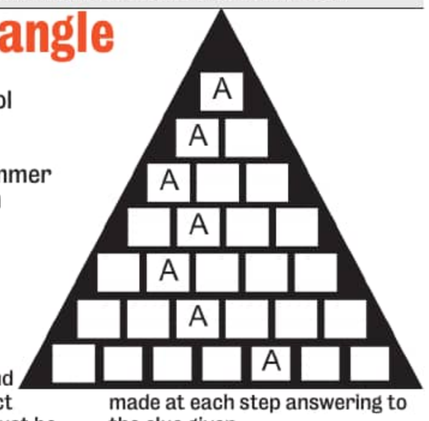
Differences: 1. Mop handle is longer. 2. Nose is smaller. 3. Phone cord is different. 4. Drawer is added to desk. 5. Desk light is different. 6. Woman's hair is different.

Riddler

Justin Case and Auntie Bellum are fellow con artists who deliver coded messages to each other to communicate. Recently Auntie Bellum was put in jail for stealing a rare and expensive diamond. Only a few days after this, Justin Case sent her a friendly letter asking her how she was. On the inside of the envelope of the letter, he hid a code. Yesterday, Auntie Bellum escaped and left the envelope and the letter inside the jail cell. The police did some research and found the code on the inside of the envelope, but they haven't been able to crack it. Could you help the police find out what the message is? This is the code: llwatchawtfeclockInisksundialcirbetimersoo

Alpha triangle

1 Blood group
2 Aluminium symbol
3 Pub purchase
4 Bathe
5 Magistrate's hammer
6 Medieval weapon
7 Hamlet

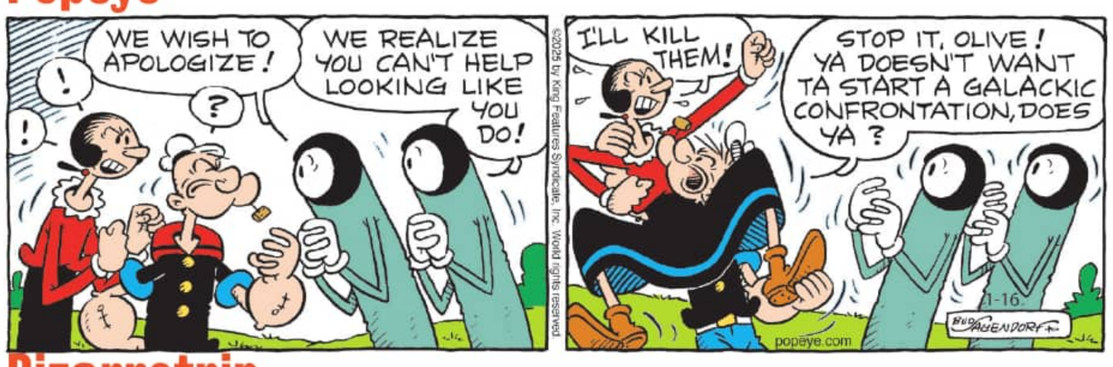


Beginning at the top move towards the bottom seven-letter word by adding a letter at each step and rearranging. A correct and different word must be made at each step answering to the clue given.

DIFFICULT TO SOLVE? FIND THESE SOLUTIONS ON THE NEXT PAGE »

COMICS

Popeye


WE WISH TO APOLOGIZE!
WE REALIZE YOU CAN'T HELP LOOKING LIKE YOU DO!
I'LL KILL THEM!
STOP IT, OLIVE! YA DOESN'T WANT TA START A GALACKIC CONFRONTATION, DOES YA?
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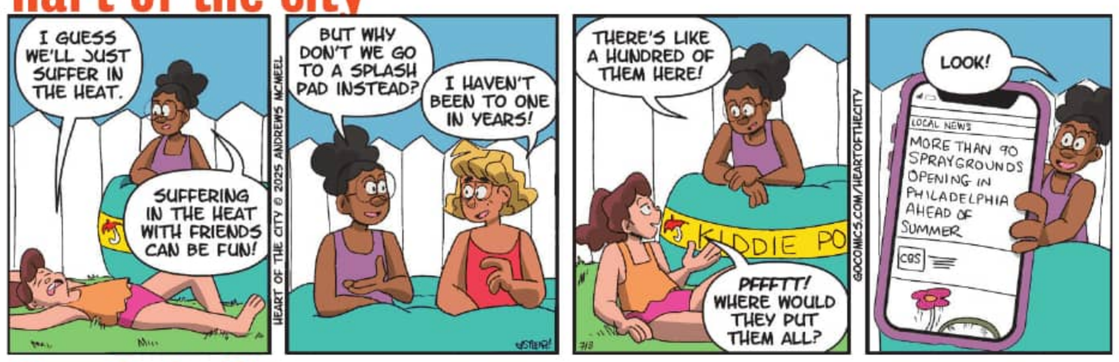
1-16
popeye.com

Bizarrotrip

You tortoise reapers have it easy. Mayfly duty is 24/7.
Wayno® & PIRARO 7-8-25
BIZARRO.COM
Dist. by King Features ©2025 BIZARRO STUDIOS

Diamond Lil

Hart of the city


I GUESS WE'LL JUST SUFFER IN THE HEAT.
SUFFERING IN THE HEAT WITH FRIENDS CAN BE FUN!
BUT WHY DON'T WE GO TO A SPLASH PAD INSTEAD?
I HAVEN'T BEEN TO ONE IN YEARS!
THERE'S LIKE A HUNDRED OF THEM HERE!
PFFFTT! WHERE WOULD THEY PUT THEM ALL?
LOOK!
LOCAL NEWS
MORE THAN 90 SPRAYGROUNDS OPENING IN PHILADELPHIA AHEAD OF SUMMER
CBS
HEART OF THE CITY © 2025 ANDREWS MCMEEL
@COMICS.COM/HEARTOFTHECITY

Crankshaft

IT LOOKS LIKE THE COUNCILMAN LESTER BILLINGS JUST THREW HIS HAT UNDER THE BUS IN THE MAYOR'S RACE.
SO WHO ARE YOU FOR... MAYOR LESTER KANE OR THE COUNCILMAN?
I PLAN TO VOTE FOR THE LESTER OF TWO EVILS!
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BATIUK & DAVIS tombatiuk.com/books
7-8

Mutts

WRITTEN IN THE STARS

DR SUNDEEP KOCHAR

If it's your birthday today

Partnerships and co-operation highlight your year. Success arrives when you collaborate rather than compete. Professionally, teamwork leads to recognition. Finances improve through joint ventures. Relationships deepen through empathy and patience. Creativity flourishes when shared with others. Health strengthens with balanced routines.

Aries Mar 21 – Apr 20

Finances appear promising today. Reflect on past mistakes, plan carefully, and embrace fresh beginnings. Considering a job change or new venture? Act decisively now, provided strategy and foresight guide you.

Taurus Apr 21 – May 20

Today emphasises joy. Step back from outines, connect with nature, and pamper yourself. Overwork shifts toward balance. Indulge in activities you love, ensuring self-care restores harmony, positivity, and inner peace.

Gemini May 21 – Jun 21

A new outlook emerges. Release past attachments and invite new friendships. Open heartfully to connections that inspire change. Authentic openness nurtures transformation.

Cancer Jun 22 – July 23

You're guiding others today. Share your wisdom, offer support, and uplift loved ones. Your kindness strengthens bonds. This generosity returns multiplied, bringing good karma and heartfelt appreciation into your life.

Leo Jul 24 – Aug 23

Say yes today. Career opportunities and love invitations open doors. Tame your dominance, accept gracefully, and embrace new chances. These opportunities align closely with your dreams.

Virgo Aug 24 – Sep 23

Movement awakens creativity. Travel sparks inspiration, whether by road or air. Exploring new environments expands awareness, stimulates productivity, and reveals uncharted possibilities.

Libra Sep 24 – Oct 22

Emotions may overwhelm. Avoid overexertion. Rest restores balance. Meditate gently, hydrate, and cultivate calm. Inner stillness nurtures positivity, helping release stress while aligning your perspective with harmony.

Scorpio Oct 23 – Nov 22

Steer your own course. No one rows your boat. Vigilance safe guards your interests. Taking control showcases leader- ship potential, strengthens your recognition, and ensures a competitive advantage. Adventure calls.

Sagittarius Nov 23 – Dec 22

Break stagnation through travel, a beach, a resort, or a spontaneous trip. Reig-nite your optimism and explore freely. Movement rekindles your spirit, inspiringjoyful freedom.

Capricorn Dec 23 – Jan 20

Rigidity limits growth. Loosen up. Explore unfamiliar activities, embrace new skills, and welcome opportunities. Openness expands horizons, attracting unexpected connections and possibilities.

Aquarius Jan 21 – Feb 19

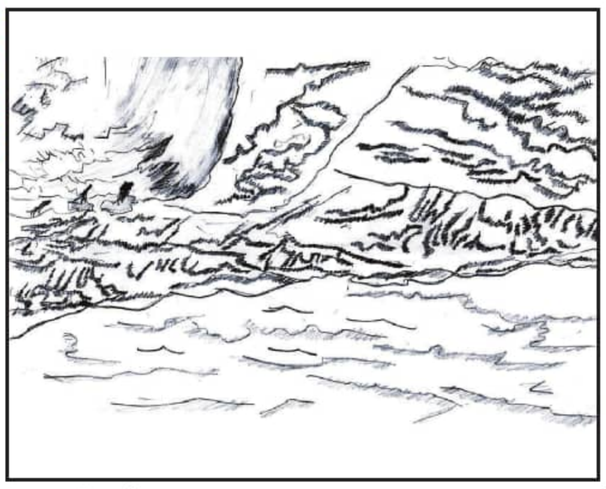
Release the past. It cannot change. Instead, control your future by prioritising health and career. Careful planning, aligned decisions, and focused goals transform circumstances positively, empowering success and stability.

Pisces Feb 20 – Mar 20

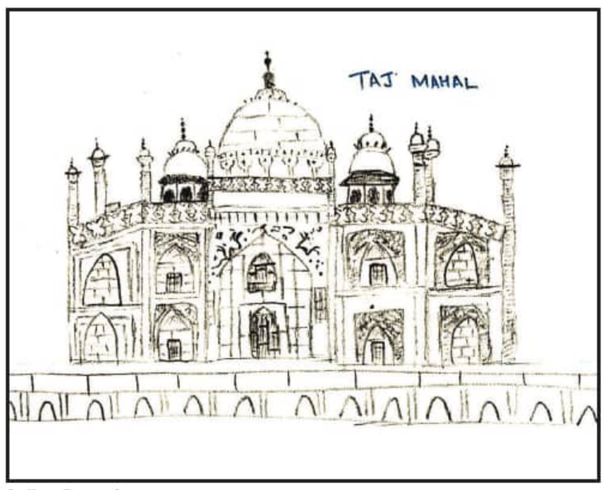
Feeling misunder stood? Don't argue, show love instead. Prepare a favourite meal, plan a meaningful activity, or demonstrate affec-tion. Actions convey devotion beyond words, healing doubt and deepening harmony.

www.sundeepkochar.com

KIDZONE



Ananya, Bengaluru



Anika, Bengaluru

Kidzone, Bangalore Mirror, No. 74/2, Sanjana Plaza, 4th & 5th Floor, Elephant Rock Road, Jayanagar 3rd block, Bengaluru-560 011;
Please send hard copies of your artwork in A4 size only.

SOLUTIONS

SOLVE IN 1M

(1/9) x (4/3))-1/3=
(4/27))-1/3=
(4-9)/27=
-5/27

BULL'S EYE

purist, PURSUIT, rust, spur, spurt, suit, usurp

STRIKE OUT

O	C	T	O		I	S	M		V	I	S	A		
N		U			N		A		M		C			
E	D	M	U	N	D		T	I	N	P	O	T		
F		U		O	U	G	H	T		U		E		
O	G	L	E	R	S		S	I	N	G	E	D		
R		I	R	E		K		N	U	N		I		
T		I	G	N	I	T	E	D				N		
H		D	E	R		D		R	E	T		U		
E	R	A	S	E	D		C	A	S	H	I	N		
R		W		T	A	K	E	N		R		I		
O	D	D	E	S	T		A	T	H	E	N	S		
A		L		E		S		A				O		
S	H	I	P	S										

QUICK

L	A	T	V	I	A		L	A	Y	O	F	E		
A		S		S		I		E		L				
Y	S	E	R		N	E	B	U	L	O	U	S		
I		T		A		Y		P		I				
N		S	T	I	G	M	A	S		E	D	O		
G		E		D		C		X		K		N		
O	F	F	S	E	T		W	R	I	T	H	E		
F		L		A		I		R		M				
F	L	Y		S	C	O	R	P	I	O		I		
		E		A		E				V		N		
C	A	R	I	A	P	P	A		M	E	N	U		
A		S		E		C				R		T		
L	A	T	A	T	T	L	E		E	D	E	N		

MENSA PUZZLE

5. In each column of the diagram, the central value equals the average of the upper and lower numbers.

QUOTE UNCODE

When you have nothing important or interesting to say, don't let anyone persuade you to say it.

SUDOKU

5	6	9	8	3	2	4	1	7
2	8	1	4	9	7	3	5	6
3	4	7	1	6	5	9	8	2
6	2	3	7	5	8	1	4	9
9	1	8	6	4	3	2	7	5
4	7	5	2	1	9	6	3	8
1	5	4	9	8	6	7	2	3
8	9	2	3	7	4	5	6	1
7	3	6	5	2	1	8	9	4

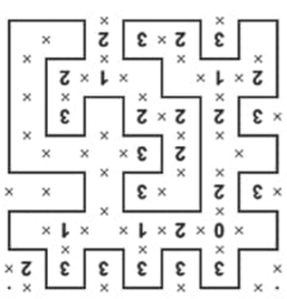
ALPHA TRIANGLE

A, Al, Ale, Lave, Gavel, Glaive, Village.

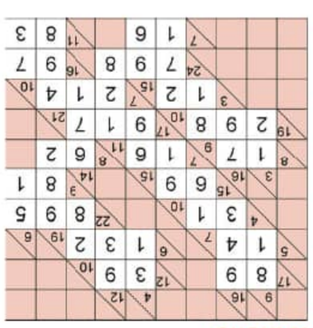
GO FIGURE

Easy
6 - 8 + 9 + 4 = 11
Medium
8 + 7 + 4 + 1 = 20
Hard
7 x 2 - 7 + 7 = 14

LOOP



KAKURO



RIDDLER

The message was "loose bricks in left wall." The message was put backward with words related to time in between.

FAST FIVE

O	D	D	L	Y
C	A	M	E	O
U	R	B	A	N
D	E	E	R	S
S	H	I	P	S

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Pankaj Dheer no more
Actor Pankaj Dheer, who is best known for his portrayal as Karn in BR Chopra's popular mythological serial "Mahabharat" passed away at the age of 68

Rugged new look

Ahaan fans excited about actor's makeover for his upcoming film

Ahaan Panday recently gave fans a sneak peek of his transformed appearance for his next action-romance film directed by Ali Abbas Zafar. Posting on Instagram, he shared three shots featuring his sharp new hairstyle. Dressed in a dark jacket over a black button down shirt, Ahaan's serious look adds a rugged edge to his intense new persona.

Sharing the look, Panday captioned the post, "And that's a cut". Collaboration details and production timelineAli Abbas Zafar, the director behind hits like 'Sultan' and 'Tiger Zinda Hai', has teamed up with Aditya Chopra to finalise the script for their new film.

Production is slated to begin in early 2026. This untitled movie will be their fifth joint venture after successful collaborations on 'Mere Brother Ki Dulhan', 'Gunday', 'Sultan' and 'Tiger Zinda Hai'.

Last month marked the announcement of the film. According to several reports, Zafar's next venture will center around an action-packed love story.Insider's insight on Ahaan's rising stardomA source close to IANS said: "Ahaan Panday came from nowhere and became the biggest Gen Z star of the country with a theatrical pull that is rare for any debutant to have!. Aditya Chopra and Ali Abbas Zafar were clear that his next had to be a love story again but he needs to be presented in a whole new avatar and the flavour of action in this romance makes it a super fresh film." — **ETimes**

SANDALWOOD SHOTS
Y MAHESWARA REDDY

Ragpicker's life

Director Purushotham Omkar, known for his devotional movies, has selected a different script for his forthcoming movie - Beedi Baduku. The movie is about a woman ragpicker, who struggles to make ends meet and also to look after her son. Rekha Sagar aka Rekha Rani, known for playing Happalada Mallamma in KGF Chapter 2, plays the lead apart from bankrolling the movie.

"I am basically a classical dancer. I have also acted in tele serials and a few Kannada movies including KGF Chapter 2. I decided to play the lead role and also support this movie because of the script. The movie revolves around street life in Bengaluru. We sent this movie for screening at a few film festivals. Some may think that I demand more money as I was in KGF Chapter 2 but I am ready to act in Kannada movies," said Rekha Sagar.

Rekha said she visited slums to understand lives of people who live there. "The movie will encourage the affluent to donate for the welfare of the poor. The movie is ready for release,"she said.

The movie's teaser was unveiled at Renukamba Preview Theater on Monday. "The movie was shot in slums and burial grounds for 25 days in sync sound method," said director Omkar.

On time travel

The muhurat function of Akala was held at Sri Bande Mahakalamma Temple in the city. Akala Machaiah Bhavan's second film as a director. Prior to this, Bhavan was to direct Dhaali but it was shelved.

Akala is being bankrolled by Annayya under the Annayya Film House banner. Nagendra Urs, Lakkiram, Priyanka, Vardhan, Bala Rajawadi, and Mohan Raj are the cast. Nagendra Urs, apart from playing the lead, is editor for the movie.

Director Bhavan said Akala is a time travel movie. "It is a story that happens between 2016 and 2019. Akala means a bad time. We have chalked out a plan to shoot this movie for 60 days from Mysuru to Gadag in four schedules. I thank the producer for supporting me," the director said.

Urs said the director approached him to discuss a comedy movie but ended up finalising this movie. "I appreciate the director for his style of narrating the story. The script is very interesting," he said.

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